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SENATE MEMORIAL 34

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOLFER GENE TORRES AND REQUESTING
THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY TO
RENAME THE LAS VEGAS GOLF COURSE FOR HIM**

**WHEREAS, Gene Torres first became a caddy at the Trinidad,
Colorado municipal golf course at the age of twelve in order to
help his family financially; and**

**WHEREAS, Gene Torres qualified for his first major golf
tournament in 1954 at the age of fifteen; and**

**WHEREAS, Gene Torres placed in three national Jaycees
tournaments by the time he was seventeen and in 1956 tied for
tenth place with Jack Nicklaus, who was then another aspiring
junior golfer; and**

**WHEREAS, Gene Torres won the Colorado state high school
golf tournament in his senior year of high school in 1956 in a**

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1 competition with only one classification for all golfers and in
2 the same year won the club championship at the Trinidad
3 municipal golf course and at the Alamosa municipal golf course;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Gene Torres moved to Las Vegas, after serving in
6 the United States navy and winning several regional golf
7 tournaments, to manage the New Mexico highlands university golf
8 course; and

9 WHEREAS, Gene Torres served for forty-two years as a
10 professor in the physical education department at New Mexico
11 highlands university and taught golf to thousands of students;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Gene Torres won the Rocky Mountain open in 1965,
14 making his professional golfing debut; and

15 WHEREAS, Gene Torres started the New Mexico highlands golf
16 team in 1967 and, thereafter, personally paid expenses for team
17 participation in several golf tournaments, developing teams
18 with a sixty percent winning record; and

19 WHEREAS, Gene Torres won his first New Mexico open in 1968
20 and went on to win four years in a row; and

21 WHEREAS, Gene Torres became a member of the professional
22 golfers' association of America in 1970 and in 1972 won the
23 Colorado open and came in second to Lee Trevino in the New
24 Mexico open; and

25 WHEREAS, Gene Torres has had more than eighty professional

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1 golf tournament wins and has been recognized with the Pacific
2 golf association lifetime achievement award and the southwest
3 section player of the year award; and

4 WHEREAS, Gene Torres has shared his golfing philosophy and
5 skills with Senator Pete Campos and his family, and Senator
6 Campos will always remain grateful for his unconditional
7 friendship; and

8 WHEREAS, Gene Torres has built a long and distinguished
9 career as a professional educator and mentor; and

10 WHEREAS, Gene Torres is the father of two sons, three
11 daughters, fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren,
12 as well as husband to Dodie, his wife of forty-four years;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
14 OF NEW MEXICO that Gene Torres has been an anchor of the Las
15 Vegas community; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate of the state of New
17 Mexico respectfully request that the New Mexico highlands
18 university golf course be renamed the Gene Torres Links at Las
19 Vegas; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the board of regents of New Mexico highlands
22 university.